

STATE OF ALASKA

DEPT. OF HEALTH AND SOCIAL SERVICES
DIVISION OF PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

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To: LA Coordinators
LA Clinics

X – Action, Urgent

X- Information

X - Policy

From: Kathleen Wayne, MS, RD, LD
Program Manager

Subject: Guidance on the Abbott Similac Recall

On September 22, 2010, Abbott issued a voluntary recall for certain Similac powder infant formula products identified by lot numbers. Abbott is recalling these products because of the possibility of the presence of a small common beetle in the product produced in one of their facilities.

WIC Local Agency Guidance

Local agencies are authorized to use any of the following options for a participant to exchange a recalled product:

1. Return to Vendor.

- Direct client to return the recalled product to the vendor to exchange for a similar product not affected by the recall, preferably in the same physical form, i.e. powder-to-powder exchange.
- Exchange of the recalled product for an identical product in an unaffected lot.
- Exchange of the recalled product for an unaffected product. For example, a client may exchange the Similac Advance 12.9 oz for Similac Sensitive 12.9 oz.

- Exchange a comparable product in a different physical form. For example, exchange Similac Advance Early Shield, 12.9 oz powder for Similac Advance Early Shield 13 oz concentrate. Use the attached conversion table.

Please note that clients must not receive refunds for returning or exchanging formulas.

2. Return to Clinic. The State agency may allow participants to return the product to the clinic. The clinic may reissue a food instrument for a comparable contract brand product in a different physical form, or for a similar noncontract brand product. In exchanging and replacing affected product, the following guidelines for substitution should be used:
 - For each 12.4 oz or 12.9 oz can powder formula, participants should receive three (3) 13 oz. cans of liquid concentrate.
 - If liquid concentrate is not available, participants may receive seven (7) 1 qt. containers of ready-to-feed bottles for each 12.4 oz. or 12.9 oz can of powder.

These amounts will ensure that participants receive comparable nutritive value for the replaced product.

Clients may exchange warrants for affected products by contacting their local WIC clinics.

3. Return to Abbott. Contact Abbott, as provided in the recall press release.

Question & Answer

- 1) What should WIC local agencies tell participants who have the infant formula involved in the recall?

Answer: Local agencies should advise participants not to purchase any powder Similac infant formula involved in the recall. If it is determined that a participant has the recalled infant formula, provide instructions consistent with the option listed above (that is, return to vendor or to clinic).

- 2) What should Local agencies do with infant formula returned to clinics?

Answer: Local agencies should contact Abbott on the logistics of returning the recalled infant formula.

- 4) What should local agencies do with sample infant formulas involved in the recall?

Answer: Local agencies should advise their local offices to check their inventory for product impacted by the recall. Please refer to the Abbott letter sent to Local WIC offices for further direction on how to return the product.

5) What should Local agencies tell vendors about the recalled infant formula?

Answer: The State agency strongly encourages local agencies to provide maximum flexibility for participants to exchange affected product as quickly as possible. Be flexible in enforcing minimum stock and quantity requirements for infant formula products in light of the recall.

Additional Information:

Abbott: www.similac.com/recall

Abbott's consumer hotline: 800-986-8850

Attachment: Abbott letter to State agencies

Abbott's Press Release:

http://abbott.com/global/url/pressRelease/en_US/60.5:5/Press_Release_0900.htm

Food and Drug Administration: www.fda.gov/Safety/Recalls/ucm226885.htm

facility. Abbott states on their website that the fastest way to exchange the formula is to return it to the vendor where it was purchased for an even exchange. Products not involved in the recall include all Abbott Nutrition liquid ready-to-feed and concentrated infant formulas and all powder and liquid specialty formulas.